

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9 are amended. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application upon entry of this paper. Applicants hereby request reconsideration and further examination.

Applicants have not received a copy of their PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B submitted by Certificate of Mailing on February 28, 2003, as part of an Information Disclosure Statement, and request that the Patent Office confirm whether these documents are in the file and whether they have been considered.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, since there is no antecedent basis for "the edge" in claim 1. This is changed to "an edge" by this paper, and Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-9 are now in proper order.

Claims 1-4, 6, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by November (2,555,290). In response, Applicants respectfully note that claim one recites "forming said binding element immediately before said inserting". The rejection did not state where November allegedly teaches this limitation and, as such, anticipation has not been established. November does state that "[t]he binder in this form is sold by the manufacturer to binders so that the latter can do their own binding of books made by them" (column 2, lines 39-42). Thus, November contemplates forming the "binder" well in advance of insertion into the book. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, and 7 on this basis is improper and request that it be withdrawn.

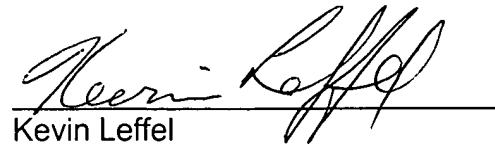
Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over November in view of Seaborn et al. (4,047, 544). In response, Applicants repeat the arguments presented with respect to November. Furthermore, Seaborn et al. describes the structure 60 as a "wire stretching assembly". In the rejection this is simply referred to as "single die" without explanation. Applicants respectfully submit that this is improper.

Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over November in view of Pigna et al. (3,854,158). In response, Applicants repeat the arguments presented with respect to November.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 10-20.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-9 are allowable in their present form for at least the reasons noted above, and hereby request such allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin Leffel", is written over a horizontal line.

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